Voter Registration Workshop

June 5, 2018

Facilitators: Kathy Greenberg and Tiffany Foster
League of Women Voters Mission

As a nonpartisan organization, LWV

➢ Encourages informed and active participation in government

➢ Works to increase understanding of major public policy issues

➢ Influences public policy through education and advocacy
LWV Voter Services Mission

• Protect all citizens’ right to vote
• Encourage all citizens to vote
  ✓ Work to register ALL eligible voters (Do not register anyone within 30 days of an election. Applications are not processed during this time.)
  ✓ Provide objective, nonpartisan information about voting and upcoming elections
    Who? Where? When?
• Further fair elections
  ✓ Develop Voter Guides for each election
  ✓ Organize Candidate Forums and Meet & Greet Events
LWVKKKC Voter Kits

✓ Contain helpful handouts for the public
✓ Provide supplies & information to help you answer questions
✓ Must be checked out and returned promptly!
✓ Can be used by all volunteers when a League member is present

Check out a Voter Kit
Contact Linda Maccabe
Ilmac@mac.com
(505) 238-1462
Who Is Eligible to Vote in Knox County?

• **You are eligible to Vote in Knox County if you**
  - ✓ are a U.S. citizen
  - ✓ have a legal/permanent address in Knox County
  - ✓ will be 18 years of age or older on or before the next election date
  - ✓ have NOT been convicted of a felony (or have had your voting rights restored)
  - ✓ postmarked the registration form—or submitted online—at least thirty (30) days before the first election in which you will vote
Guidelines for Determining Residency

• In Tennessee, for purposes of voting, people can declare residency at any time (Universities and other agencies/institutions may have different requirements. Example: Universities may require several years’ residency before can claim in-state tuition)

• Some considerations to determine residency:
  ✓ Are you considered a resident in some other state? (Only 1 legal/permanent residence allowed.)
  ✓ Do you intend to live here, and if absent for a period, do you intend to return?
  ✓ Is your personal property registered here (such as your car)?
  ✓ Do you have local licenses, like a TN driver’s license?
  ✓ Are you living with a spouse or family member that is a TN resident? More info: https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/guidelines-determining-residency
  ✓ Do you want to be able to vote in Knox County?
Misconceptions about Residency for Students

• Will residency for voting purposes affect financial aid?
  ✓ Does NOT affect federal financial aid, Pell Grants, Perkins and Stafford Loans, etc.
  ✓ Does NOT affect consideration for being your parents dependent for FAFSA.

• What about your driver’s license or registration?
  ✓ It may not be required that you change your driver’s license, but your TN driver’s license can be key when proving you are a resident of TN. It’s also meets the requirement for a TN State issued photo ID.

• Your Parents’ taxes?
  ✓ Students are sometimes told that registering to vote will make it impossible for their parents to claim them as a dependent. This is NOT true.
Restoration of Voting Rights if Convicted of a Felon

Anyone convicted of a felon after May 18, 1981, can seek to get their voting rights restored.

✓ A form must be completed by an agent, such as a probation/parole officer or criminal court clerk, who has the authority to provide the required information regarding the individual’s conviction, final release date, and information regarding restitution or court cost.

✓ Agent contact information as of May, 2018: Jim Kriplean 865-582-2048

✓ Completed form(s) must be submitted to the election commission office in the county in which the individual resides.

The Registration Process: Paper Form

• Same form for all TN counties
  ✓ Knox County Election Commission will forward paper forms to the appropriate county.
  ✓ Registrants can mail forms themselves.

• Forms available:
  ✓ Obtain at election commission office or from a LWVKKC Voter Kit

• Deadline to submit: 30 days prior to election (postmarked or delivered)

• LWVKKC Volunteers:
  ✓ Law requires volunteers to submit applications in a timely manner!
  ✓ ALWAYS SUBMIT 30+ DAYS BEFORE ELECTION & and within 2 business days of a VR drive!
  ✓ Check applications for accuracy (A voter is NOT registered until errorless or corrected form submitted!)
  ✓ Follow-up on registrants behalf to ensure they receive voter card and/or to help solve problems
The Application Form must be error free!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you a citizen of the United States?</td>
<td>Yes ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before Election Day?</td>
<td>Yes ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you answered &quot;No&quot; in response to either of the above, do not complete this form.</td>
<td>☐ No ☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WARNING:** Giving false information to register to vote or attempting to register when not qualified is a felony punishable by no less than two (2) years nor more than twelve (12) years imprisonment or a fine of $5,000 or both.
If a DEFICIENT Application

Election commission sends letter indicating specific problems and how to correct

✓ Missing or incomplete name and/or name and address of person assisting, date and place of birth, signature, gender
✓ Missing or invalid social security number
✓ Providing a P.O. Box or business address as legal address
✓ Not answering questions re citizenship, Tennessee residence, felony conviction, 18 years old on/before next election
✓ Not completing form in ink
Correcting Errors

Correcting errors BEFORE the application is submitted
✓ Volunteers check for common mistakes and determine whether you can read it (if you can’t, the Election Commission staff will likely not be able to either)
✓ Applicant corrects answers and initials changes
✓ Volunteer corrects and person initials changes
✓ Volunteers rewrite forms (must sign as assistant and provide address)

Correcting errors after receive notice of deficient application
✓ Person submits a new, accurate application
✓ Person must submit revised information before election
  in person: 5+ days before election    by mail: 30+ days before election
If a REJECTED Application

Election commission sends letter indicating problems & how to appeal

✓ Answered “yes” to having committed a felony between January 15, 1973 and May 17, 1981 and voting rights not restored
✓ Documentation not available regarding conviction date between January 15, 1973 and May 17, 1981
✓ Answered “no” to citizenship and 18 years of age question
✓ Not a resident of this county (application will be forwarded to correct county)
✓ Non-resident property owner in City of Knoxville with voting rights but no documentation of ownership or already 2 individuals registered to vote on the property

Voter Kits contain copies of appeal application
The Registration Process: Online

• Free app: GoVoteTN

• Only citizens with a valid TN Driver’s license can register online

• (Driver’s license NOT required on paper form)

• Deadline to submit: 30+ days prior to election
The Voter Registration Card

Voters should receive a Voter Registration Card about 3 weeks after the application is received.
Change of Address/Name

Regardless of former address
✓ Submit a registration application (If moved to a new county or State, the person **must** complete a new registration application)

If new address is in the same county as the old address:
✓ During Early Voting, change at any polling place
✓ On Election Day, change at polling place for NEW address
✓ Online, change at GoVoteTN.com (or app)
The Voting Process

• Voting Early—Encourage Voters to Take Advantage!
  ✓ When – The Election Commission sets the dates, times, and locations for early voting prior to each election—typically begins twenty (20) days before and ends five (5) days before Election Day.

  ✓ Where – A registered voter may vote at ANY early voting polling place in the county for which they are registered. Note: times and days are not the same at all Early Voting locations

  ✓ Requirement: Voter must present an acceptable photo ID (or meet a legal exception)

• Voting on Election Day
  ✓ Where: Voters must vote at assigned voting precinct noted on registration card

  ✓ Requirement: Voters must present an acceptable photo ID
Informed Voting

Provide NONPARTISAN information

✓ Handouts listing candidates and issues that will be on the ballot

✓ Explanation about how primary elections differ from general elections

✓ Voter Guides—providing candidates’ responses to a LWV set of questions—Available at lwvknoxville.org, on Vote411, or in the News Sentinel just before Early Voting

✓ Handouts about nonpartisan Forums and Meet & Greet candidate events
Valid Picture ID Requirement

• Voters must present an acceptable ID with name & photo at the voting poll

• Acceptable IDs—even if expired
  ✓ Tennessee driver license with photo
  ✓ United States Passport
  ✓ Photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (free, but must travel to designated facility—Knox County requires travel to Strawberry Plains driver service center)
  ✓ Photo ID issued by the federal government or Tennessee state government
  ✓ United States Military photo ID
  ✓ Tennessee handgun carry permit with your photo
Exceptions to Photo IDs

• IDs NOT acceptable
  ✓ College student IDs
  ✓ IDs not issued by the federal government or by the State of Tennessee.
    Examples:
    o County or city issued photo IDs
    o Library cards
    o Photo IDs issued by some state other than Tennessee

• Situations where no ID is required
  ✓ Voters who vote by mail (must vote in person the first time)
  ✓ Voters who are residents of a licensed nursing home or facility and vote at the facility
  ✓ Voters who are hospitalized
  ✓ Voters with a religious objection to being photographed
  ✓ Voters who sign a form at the poll stating they are indigent & unable to obtain a photo ID
Voting by Absentee Ballot

Must have an acceptable reason as determined by law. Includes anyone over 60 years of age, student/spouse, job, health, and other special circumstances

Procedure
✓ Request a by-mail absentee ballot after the published date for doing so for an upcoming election.
✓ Download from https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/how-do-i-request-absentee-ballot no earlier than 90 days before the election
✓ Mail-in ballot must be received by the Election Commission no later than 7 days before the election. It may NOT be hand-delivered.

Important: Volunteers should NOT conduct absentee voting drives!
LWVKC volunteers ONLY provide information contained in Voter Kits
Common Confusions

• In primary elections, voters must claim affiliation with one party and receive ballot only for candidates of that party (plus other nonpartisan items)

• In general elections, voters receive ballots listing party and independent candidates and other items

• Early voting has many advantages
  ✓ ensures most problems resolved before election day
  ✓ Provides many locations for voter convenience
  ✓ Avoids missed voting due to illness or emergencies

• **Nonpartisanship:** While volunteering to register voters or at other LWV event: Take off your campaign hat! Do not share your political opinions!
Helpful Apps/Websites

**GoVoteTN.com** – website & app
Register online, find information about election dates, candidates, districts, and more

**Vote411.org** – website & app
Read Voter Guides, find your polling place and districts for offices

**knoxcounty.org/election/** – website
Find information about election dates, early voting locations and times, candidates, and more

**lwvknoxville.org/** – website & Facebook
Learn much more about protecting voters’ rights, encouraging citizens to vote, furthering fair elections, Voter Guides and candidate events
Thank you for helping make democracy work!